

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sealing apparatus for sealing an annular gap between a shaft and a housing ~~that are~~, the shaft and the housing being relatively rotated, the combination of the sealing apparatus, the shaft and the housing comprising

a seal lip extending toward a sealing fluid side ~~to be~~ in sliding contact with a surface of the shaft,

a ~~projection disposed~~ plurality of truncated triangular shaped projections spaced apart at a root of the seal lip and extending towards said fluid sealing side,

a distance between a surface of the ~~projection~~ plurality of projections and a center of the shaft being slightly larger than a radius of the shaft, and

at least a part of a side surface of ~~the projection~~ each of the plurality of projections exhibiting a suction function of returning fluid that has leaked from a seal lip tip end to the sealing fluid side when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated,

each of the projection plurality of projections including and extending at a same level as and between a set of side surfaces of each of the plurality of projections,

the side surfaces of one projection and an adjacent projection define a

triangular shaped recess located between the one projection and the adjacent projection with the recess having an apex pointing down towards the seal tip end and towards an anti-sealing fluid side and extending in a direction opposite to said sealing fluid side.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A sealing apparatus ~~for~~ sealing an annular gap between a shaft and a housing ~~that are,~~ the shaft and the housing being relatively rotated, the combination of the sealing apparatus, the shaft and the housing comprising

a seal lip extending toward a sealing fluid side ~~to be~~ in sliding contact with a surface of the shaft,

an annular portion projecting out more to the sealing fluid side than the seal lip, and

the annular portion including a projection, a distance between a surface of the projection and a center of the shaft being slightly larger than a radius of the shaft, and

at least a part of a side surface of ~~the projection~~ each of the plurality of projections exhibiting a suction function of returning fluid that comes in from an inner circumference side of the annular portion to the sealing fluid side when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated,

each of the projection plurality of projections including and extending at a same level as and between a set of side surfaces of each of the plurality of projections, the side surfaces of one projection and an adjacent projection define a triangular shaped recess located between the one projection and the adjacent projection with the recess having an apex pointing down towards the seal tip end and towards an anti-sealing fluid side and extending in a direction opposite to said sealing fluid side.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The sealing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the side surfaces of the projection exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a first direction, and the other one of the side surfaces exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The sealing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein one of the side surfaces of the projection exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a first direction, and the other one of the side surfaces exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a second direction opposite to the first direction.